

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 2, line 6 that end at page 3, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- At this point, an amount of the seawater taken in is set on the basis of a ship's size, namely, displacement. In case of a large-scale ship, frequently seawater more than ten thousand tons is taken in. In that case, marine microorganisms are contained in the taken-in seawater. In case a ship takes in seawater in a country or zone where the ship comes alongside a quay and then discharges the seawater in a foreign country or zone, the marine microorganisms taken in the seawater might propagate to the foreign zone.

The above-mentioned migration of the marine microorganisms does not nearly occur in the natural world but generates ecosystem disturbance such as a change in a representative species of living creatures and a red tide, thus causing very severe problems to the ecosystem.

To cope with these problems, methods for filtering the taken-in seawater with a filter or eliminating the marine microorganisms by inputting medicines into the taken-in seawater have been used to eliminate the microorganisms inside the ballast tank. In case of the method that uses the filter, and amount of the taken-in seawater is reduced, thus a problem in a treating capacity ~~is occurred~~ occurs. Further, since ~~at~~ the mesh of a filter is limited, a complete treating of the microorganism is not performed. --

Please replace the section heading at page 3, line 11 with the following rewritten section heading:

-- ~~DISCLOSURE~~ SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the section heading at page 7, line 15 with the following rewritten section heading:

-- ~~BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF
THE INVENTION --

Please DELETE the section heading at page 21, line 8.